

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 19 (currently amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, ~~and~~

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface: and

containing within said bag thermolabile substances;

forming a portal in the mold and bag and sealing at the portal the thermolabile substances in the bag; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 56 (cancelled)

Claim 57 (cancelled)

Claim 58 (cancelled)

Claim 59 (cancelled)

Claim 60 (currently amended) - A method for forming a medical bag which is resistant to forces engendered by medical fluid undergoing a phase change within the bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface,

placing a blank of sheet material over said mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, including a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface such that the radiused periphery dissipates forces during phase change;

forming at least one closeable portal in the bag; and

filling the bag with a thermolabile biological fluid and freezing the fluid in the bag.

Claim 61 (cancelled)

Claim 62 (cancelled)

Claim 63 (currently amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet

includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, the sheet material composed of a material having a shape memory, whereby a conformed sheet retains a conformed shape after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 64 (currently amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, the sheet material composed of a material having a shape memory, whereby a conformed sheet retains a conformed shape which includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 65 (currently amended) - A method for forming a medical bag from a material having a shape memory, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, wherein the conformed sheet retains a conformed shape which includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 66 (currently amended) - A method for forming a flexible, memory-retaining medical bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, the sheet material including a shape memory, whereby a conformed sheet retains a conformed shape which includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 67 (currently amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

conforming a sheet material to a first mold, said first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag, said material having a shape memory of a post-conformation shape,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and
closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet
parallel to the planar surface; and
subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag
dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 68 (new) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess
including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a
peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said
planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an
interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the
blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet
includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and
closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet
parallel to the planar surface;

containing within said bag thermolabile substances; and
subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag
dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 69 (new) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess
including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a
peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said

planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface;

containing within said bag cellular biological substances;

forming a portal in the mold and the bag and sealing at the portal the cellular biological substances within the bag; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 70 (new) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface;

wherein enclosing the bag is performed by forming a second mold having a mirror image of the first mold and placing a blank of sheet material over said second mold causing the blank to conform to the mold and forming the bag by registering the formed sheet from the first mold and formed sheet from the second mold together; and

subsequently freezing the bag whereby the radiused periphery of the bag dissipates forces due to freezing within the bag.

Claim 71 (new) - A method for forming a medical bag which is resistant to forces engendered by medical fluid undergoing a phase change within the bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface,

placing a blank of sheet material over said mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, including a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface such that the radiused periphery dissipates forces during phase change, and

filling the bag with a thermolabile biological fluid and freezing the fluid in the bag.